whom have gone the length of suggesting that assignments of lands should henceforth be made conditional on their cultivation within a specified time. I may assure you that the Government will not hesitate to adopt this suggestion if they are convinced that there is a pressing need for it.

7. Puduval Survey. The Puduval Survey Staff, created in the middle of 1096 to facilitate the disposal of applications for *puduval* lands, was charged with the detailed survey of minor circuit blocks in the twelve taluks of the State in which large areas are available for registry. This staff worked till the close of 1097 and completed the detailed survey of 122 square miles. As, by that date, it was found that the extent surveyed was ample enough to meet all present demand for fresh *puduvals*, this staff was considerably reduced in 1098 and the reduced staff directed to attend to the completion of the field work in the minor circuits, the survey of which had already been commenced, and to the correction of records. This temporary staff has been still further reduced in 1099, and the small staff remaining has been directed to close the balance of work under original survey and correction of records in the minor circuits already taken up.

8. Kodayar Area. The extension of wet cultivation within the area commanded by the Kodayar channels in South Travancore has, as you are aware, claimed the attention of the Government; and mainly as a result of the labours of the special officer appointed for the purpose, an extent of 490 acres was added to the wet area there in 1097 and 629 acres in 1098. The total extent of dry lands converted into wet within the commanded area up to the end of 1098 is 17,053 acres, leaving a balance of 8,508 acres still available for conversion. It will be noted that the lands so converted from 1096 are exempt from the payment of water-cess for a period of two years, and that only the reduced cess of Rs. 4 per acre is demanded from them during the third year. Action is being taken by the Revenue and the Public Works Departments in regard to the schemes submitted by the special officer for the opening of fresh distributary channels in the upper reaches of the commanded area and for the utilisation of the surplus and seepage water for the tail-end lands.

Government are glad to note that most of the block irrigation boards in this area have already been formed and that a good many of them have begun to function. It is hoped that the Central Board for the entire area will be constituted without further delay.

9. Disafforestation. In addition to the four taluk committees formed for the purpose of recommending areas suitable for paddy cultivation being thrown open from reserved forests, referred to in my Address last year, four more committees have since been constituted for the taluks of Pattanamtitta, Todupuzha, Muvattupuzha and Kunnatnad. Orders have already issued on the reports received from the committees for Peermade, Devicolam and Pattanapuram, whereby areas to the extent of about 790, 1,150 and 200 acres respectively have been thrown open for registry in those taluks. The reports of the other committees are awaited.

10. Land Colonisation. In paragraph 10 of my last year's Address, I referred to a scheme of land colonisation which was under the contemplation of Government as a means of meeting, in some measure, the problem of middle class unemployment in this country. The draft rules relating to the scheme have been published for criticism and will soon engage the final attention of the Government. This scheme has been the subject of a certain amount of adverse criticism both in the press and elsewhere. Some of these criticisms are valuable, containing as they do suggestions which would remove certain defects in the draft scheme and enhance its utility; and Government are grateful for such criticism. They do not claim perfection for their draft scheme and would endeavour to improve it as far as possible before it emerges in its final form. The remaining criticisms, however, which are pitched in a different key, aim at dismissing the scheme as chimerical and impracticable; and to those critics my answer is that the scheme is not so jejune or valueless as they would wish to make out. It may not go far; but should it be availed of by the people for whose benefit it is intended, it is sure to go some way to solve the acute

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problem of the unemployment of the literate, to improve methods of agriculture and to add to the food-supply of the country and the earning capacity of its citizens. An analogous scheme, suggested by Captain Petavel of Calcutta, is now receiving encouragement in Bengal at the hands of such distinguished men as Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, while, in the neighbouring province of Madras, another retired High Court Judge and an ex-Member of the Indian Legislative Assembly is engaged in developing a similar scheme with the aid of private effort.

11. Land Conservancy and Land Records. The conservation of *porambokes* and other Government lands required for public purposes, attenuated by indiscriminate occupations and assignments in the past, is of no less concern to the landholder than the availability of lands which may be legitimately used for cultivation; and it was with a view, among other things, to achieve some tangible results in this direction that the scope of the land records maintenance scheme was revised in 1096, its operation being mainly restricted to the inspection of *porambokes*, the detection of encroachments thereon, and the survey, demarcation and plotting of *poramboke* numbers and their sub-divisions. In the discharge of this important function, the Land Records staff has shown more satisfactory results in 1098 than in the previous years, due evidently to the greater experience gained by the Assistant Tahsildars and their staff and the undivided attention which the Assistant Superintendent of Survey has been able to devote to the supervision of their work in his new capacity of Land Records Superintendent. The refixing of theodolite stations was practically completed and a proportionately larger outturn than in the previous years was secured under other heads of work from the staff employed. The dual control of the Peishkars and the Land Records Superintendent, to which Assistant Tahsildars and their staff were subject till the close of 1098, having been found to hamper the celerity of their work, they have been now placed directly under the control of the Land Records Superintendent, the Peishkars and the Tahsildars having nothing to do with them until their field work is finished and the records sent over to the Tahsildars. Moreover, the rules issued under the Land Conservancy Regulation, IV of 1091, are now better understood and have become acceptable to the public as a result of the substantial concessions referred to in paragraph 7 of my last year's Address. It is therefore to be hoped that this important item of land records work will be soon completed. The functions of the Revenue, Public Works and other departments as well as of Municipal Councils, in the matter of future conservation of *porambokes*, have now been clearly defined, and there can be no excuse hereafter for dilatoriness on the part of any officer in that respect.

12. Transfer of registry. In addition to its main function of the survey of *porambokes* and the detection of encroachment, the Land Records staff, on its reorganisation, was entrusted with the survey of sub-divisions involved in pending *pokkuvaravu* cases. The work so turned out has come up to 38,806 sub-divisions in the course of a little over two years and transfer of registry has presumably been effected in most of these cases. This is satisfactory so far as it goes; but recently a closer scrutiny of the *pokkuvaravu* cases still pending revealed the fact that there were more than 53,000 such cases awaiting disposal in the several taluks, and that, of these, as many as 44,000 roughly were cases involving sub-divisions and could not, under the existing rules, be disposed of without a survey of the sub-divisions involved. Government were thus confronted with the problem of the disposal of this huge volume of *pokkuvaravu* arrears which had to be done within the short space of about 15 months, should the electoral roll for the next general elections to the Legislative Council, due in 1100 M. E., make any approach to accuracy; and it has in consequence been decided that, inasmuch as the areas ascertained by sub division survey could not, when they differed from those specified in the documents of transfer, be adopted in the decisions in *pokkuvaravu* cases, under G. O. No. 7195/L. R., dated the 22nd November, 1917, such survey as regards the pending and future *pokkuvaravu* cases might well be dispensed with for the present, and that all those cases might be disposed of on the basis of the areas entered in the documents of transfer. Under this simplified arrangement, it must be possible for the normal Land Revenue staff to wipe off the arrears under *pokkuvaravu* before the revision of the electoral roll becomes due next year. But even for expediting the work under this

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